Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling security of data in a storage system having a local disk system and a remote disk system that are coupled to at least one host computer, the method comprising:

in the local disk system coupled to a first host computer:

when a write of data is to be made to the local disk system retrieving a previously stored encryption key;

encrypting the data;

transferring the data to the remote disk system via a first communication link; then

in the remote disk system:

determining whether the data is to be stored in an encrypted form;

determining an address for storage of the data in the remote disk system;

if the data is to be stored in a decrypted form, decrypting and writing the data in the remote disk system;

if the data is to be stored in an encrypted form, writing the data in the remote disk system without decrypting the data; and

notifying the local disk system via the first communication link that the step of writing the data is complete,

wherein the local disk system is coupled to ~~a~~the first host computer via a second communication link to allow the first host computer to access data stored in the local disk system, the first and second communication links being different.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1 further comprising a step of maintaining an encryption control table on the local disk system, the encryption control table including a list of encryption keys for selected volumes of the local and the remote disk system,

wherein the data transfer between the local disk system and the remote disk system occurring via a communication link that couples the local disk system to the remote disk system, so that the local disk system may send the data to the remote disk system without direct involvement from the host computer

wherein a first key is assigned to a first set of volumes in the local disk system, and a second key is assigned to a second set of volumes in the local disk system, each of the first and second set of volumes including one or more volumes,

wherein the remote disk system is coupled to a second host computer.

3. (Original) A method as in claim 2 wherein the list of encryption keys further includes information relating to the use and non-use of encryption on the local disk system.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 2 wherein the list of encryption keys further includes information relating to the use and non-use of encryption on the remote disk system.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 3 wherein the encryption key is applicable to less than all of the storage on the local disk system.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 4 wherein the encryption key is applicable to less than all of the storage on the remote disk system.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 3 wherein the encryption key is applicable to at least one disk on the local disk system.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 7 wherein the encryption key is applicable to at least one disk on the remote disk system.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for changing an encryption key while operating a storage system having a local disk system and a remote disk system comprising:

storing an encryption key in a memory in the local disk system;

transmitting the encryption key to the remote disk system and storing it in a memory there via a first communication link coupling the local and remote disk systems;

in the local disk system determining a boundary for use of the encryption key;

in the remote disk system receiving the boundary from the local disk system;

in both the local and the remote disk system, determining a relationship of present operations to the boundary;

in both the local and the remote disk system waiting for the boundary, and then changing the encryption key for data stored thereafter,

wherein the local disk system is coupled to a first host computer via a second communication link that is different than the first communication link.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 9 wherein operations before the boundary are performed using a first encryption key and operations after the boundary are performed using a second encryption key.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 9 wherein the boundary is defined by counting input/output operations and using the count to define the boundary.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for changing an encryption key while operating a storage system having a local disk system and a remote disk system, the method comprising:

storing an encryption key in a memory in the local disk system;

transmitting via a first communication link the encryption key to the remote disk system and storing it in a memory there;

issuing split request from the local disk system to the remote disk system to allow them to operate independently;

using a new encryption key to begin storing data in the local disk system after issuing the split request;

using a new encryption key to begin storing data in the remote disk system after receiving the split request; and

resynchronize the local disk system and the remote disk system,

wherein the local disk system is coupled to a host computer via a second communication link that is different than the first communication link to allow the host computer to access data stored in the local disk system, the first and second communication links being different.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling encryption in a storage system having a local disk system and a remote disk system comprising:

maintaining a control table in each of the local disk system and the remote disk system;

determining a boundary in the local disk system where encryption is to be switched to an opposite state;

in the remote disk system receiving a corresponding boundary from the remote disk system;

in both the local and the remote disk system, determining a relationship of present operations to the boundary;

in both the local and the remote disk system waiting for the boundary, and then changing the switching the encryption to the opposite state,

wherein the local disk system is coupled to a first host computer via a first communication link, and the remote disk system is coupled to a second host computer via a second communication link, the local disk system and the remote disk system being coupled to each other via a third communication link, the third communication link being different than the first or second communication link.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 13 wherein operations before the boundary are either encrypted or not encrypted, and operations performed after the boundary are either not encrypted or encrypted oppositely to those operations performed before the boundary.

15. (Original) A method as in claim 14 wherein the boundary is defined by counting input/output operations and using the count to define the boundary.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling encryption in a storage system having a local disk system and a remote disk system comprising:

storing an encryption key in a memory in the local disk system that is coupled to a host computer via a first communication link;

transmitting via a second communication link the encryption key to the remote disk system and storing it in a memory there;

splitting the local disk system from the remote disk system to allow them to operate independently;

switching encryption to an opposite state from a previous state after splitting the local disk system and remote disk system; and

re-synchronizing the local disk system and the remote disk system,

the first and second communication links being different.

17. (Currently Amended) A storage system comprising:

a local disk system including a plurality of volumes of media for storing data, said local disk system being coupled to a host computer via a first communication link to enable the host computer to access said volumes;

a remote disk system including a plurality of volumes of media for storing data; and

a second communications link coupling the local system to the remote system,

wherein the local disk system determines whether encryption is to be employed in the data on the local disk system, and if so, encrypts the date to be transferred to the remote disk system, and

wherein the remote disk system determines whether to store the data in either encrypted form or unencrypted form and stores the data in that form in the remote disk system, and notifies the local disk system that the data has been stored via the second communication link,

wherein the first and second communication links are different.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 17 further comprising an encryption control table stored on the local disk system, the encryption control table including a list of encryption keys for selected volumes of the local system and the remote system.

19. (Original) A system as in claim 18 wherein the list of encryption keys further includes information relating to the use and non-use of encryption on the local system.

20. (Original) A system as in claim 19 wherein the list of encryption keys further includes information relating to the use and non-use of encryption on the remote system.

21. (Original) A system as in claim 20 wherein the encryption key is applicable to less than all of the storage on the local system.

22. (Original) A system as in claim 21 wherein the encryption key is applicable to less than all of the storage on the remote system.

23. (Currently Amended) A storage system having changeable encryption keys, comprising:

a local disk system coupled to a first host computer via a first communication link;

a remote disk system; and

a second communications link connecting the local disk system to the remote disk system for transmitting the encryption key from the local disk system to the remote disk system,

wherein the local disk system determines a boundary for use of the encryption key; ~~and~~

wherein the remote disk system receives the boundary from the local disk system; and

wherein both the local and the remote disk system, determine a relationship of present operations to the boundary, and change the encryption key for operations occurring after the boundary,

wherein the first and second communication links are different.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) A system for controlling encryption in a storage system having a local system and a remote system comprising:

a local memory storing an encryption key in the local system;

a first communications link for transmitting the encryption key to the remote disk system and storing it in a remote memory there;

a first computer program for splitting the local system from the remote system to allow them to operate independently;

a switch for changing encryption to an opposite state from a previous state after splitting in the local disk system and remote disk system; and

a second computer program for re-synchronizing the local system and the remote system,

wherein the local system is a local disk system that is coupled to a host computer via a second communication link that is different than the first communication link.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling security of data in a storage system having a local disk system and a remote disk system comprising:

in the local disk system:

receiving a data update request from a host computer connected to the local disk system wherein said data update request includes a location of a fist portion of the local disk system, the host computer being connected to the local disk via a first communication link;

assigning a key to the first portion of the local disk system;

encrypting the data stored in the first portion of the local disk system;

transferring the encrypted data to the remote disk system; then

in the remote disk system:

decrypting the data using the assigned key; and

writing the decrypted data into a second portion of the remote disk system,

wherein the first and second communication links are different.

28. (Original) A method as in claim 27 wherein the first portion comprises at least a volume of the local storage system and the second portion comprises at least a volume of the remote disk system.

29. (Original) A method as in claim 28 wherein the first portion comprises a group of volumes of the local storage system, and the second portion comprises a group of volumes of the remote storage system.

30. (Currently Amended) A storage system comprising:

a local disk system including a plurality of volumes of media for storing data;, wherein the local disk system is connected to a host computer via a first communication link;

a remote disk system including a plurality of volumes of media also for storing data;

a second communications link coupling the local disk system to the remote disk system, the first and second communication links being different,

wherein the local disk system retrieves selected data from one of the volumes on the local system, encrypts that selected data using an encryption key, and transmits the encrypted selected data to the remote disk system, and

wherein the remote disk system decrypts the selected data received from the communications link and stores that selected data in unencrypted form in one of the volumes of media the remote system.

31. (Original) A system as in claim 30 further comprising an encryption control table stored on the local disk system, the encryption control table including a list of encryption keys for selected volumes of the local system and the remote system.